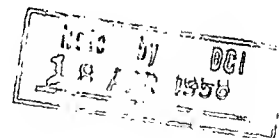


15 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Veterans of Strategic Services Project



1. This is a report of my discussion with Henry Hyde on 14 April concerning what he is trying to do with the Veterans of Strategic Services.

2. Following your letter to Whitney Shepardson, Henry and Whitney have gotten together and discussed the rather ambitious program for raising money in order to maintain contact with former O.S.S. agents. Whitney has indicated a willingness to be of assistance, but because of rather poor health and other commitments does not feel that at the moment he can devote full time to it.

Henry is therefore casting about to discover some other individual with prestige in the O.S.S. circles who could conduct the program. Among the names that he discussed were Russ D'Oench, Paul Mellon and Alan Scaife. He is also thinking that perhaps it would be necessary to get some capable woman who had O.S.S. experience to actually do the work in the office while perhaps one of the above mentioned did the traveling and fund raising, etc. Among the women that he mentioned were Peggy Feldman, Margaret Griggs and Marian Cooley.

3. As you will recall, Henry's ideas are somewhat as follows:

a. to conduct a fund-raising campaign among the approximately 30,000 O.S.S. alumni in order to provide for scholarships, bringing to the United States, sending Christmas cards, and otherwise maintaining contact with the indigenous agent personnel used by O.S.S. throughout the world;

b. the Veterans of Strategic Services organization, which is pretty defunct everywhere in the country except New York, would be reactivated on a national basis;

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c. CIA would be, to a certain degree, a silent partner in this endeavor and might benefit by some of the work of the organization in re-establishing contacts, etc.

4. Since Henry started working on this project there have been several developments. [] has produced a great deal of information about the S.O.E. Club which actually maintains a full time clubhouse in Dorset Square, London. It has a very large and active membership, and has made a practice of bringing agents who worked for the British to London where they were decorated, wined and dined, etc. You will recall that at one of these ceremonies the Queen personally conferred decorations on several French resistance members, including cabinet ministers. Sir Charles Hambro is very active in the British organization. The British are having an annual meeting on July 1st and have written Henry Hyde and asked if the V.S.S. would send a delegation of two. Henry is planning to ask Alan Scaife, Lester Armour and Junius Morgan. He may also ask [] (The thought occurred that Tracy Barnes is [] could go, but there is a question about the advisability of our being openly associated.) In France the organization is called the "Association Amicale D'Entraide des Anciens Officiers Charges de Missions-Action et de Leurs Collaborateurs Recrutes en France," and the president of it is currently Bourges-Maunoury. They, too, have sent a letter to Henry Hyde asking him to send a delegation to a reunion at Lyon on the 17th and 18th of May where they are planning to have a large celebration, including an air drop. They have even gone so far as to propose to pay the expenses of the American delegation for a week in France. Henry has asked Russ Forgan and Tim Cassidy to go to this. He is also thinking of asking David Bruce and John Haskell, neither of

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whom may wish to go because of their official positions. Others that he is considering are Bert Jolis, Henry North, Louis Hyde, Wally Booth, and Peter Ortiz. He asked Stewart Alsop who said he couldn't make it, and also considered

but decided that inasmuch as she is currently employed by us, it would perhaps be best not to include her.

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5. There are several areas where this whole operation is of benefit to the Government.

a. There was no systematic method used by O.S.S. to decorate or express appreciation to the various agent personnel used abroad. Generally speaking, some form of appreciation was given to the principal agent who dropped in or closed the lines, but the little men--the couriers and informants and others--were generally forgotten. Even in certain instances the principal agents were not adequately rewarded. The revitalization of V.S.S. would assist us in reminding these people that the United States did appreciate their courageous service.

b. By getting to the "little men," the V.S.S. will recruit friends in the rural areas where occasionally, in places like France and Italy, the Communists are most effective.

c. The V.S.S. will develop a valuable list of names which will be available to CIA.

d. The entire operation has important political warfare connotations.

6. Behind the scenes, there are several possibilities of CIA rendering support:


a. We might provide from among our staff officers an ex-O.S.S. individual to help run the office and do the paper work.

b. We might assist to the extent of paying for the office and the secretary who could be the principal liaison point with us.

c. We could certainly participate to the degree of awarding belated citations and decorations where appropriate.

d. In view of the tremendous expense in bringing individuals to the United States from Europe, or any other part of the world, we could conceivably arrange for their transportation by MATS if the direct interest of the United States Government was believed to be sufficiently great.

e. We might participate to the degree of direct subsidy.

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WYMAN B. KIRKPATRICK
Inspector General